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## ABSTRACT

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A pointing device, such as a remote control, including a multi-bit data sensor configured to receive multi-bit data from a portable data repository. The multi-bit data sensor may include a transducer configured to read a bar code, characters, a magnetic strip or the like, and generate resulting electronic data. In various embodiments the portable data repository is a credit card, smart card or other data card. The pointing device may further include memory for data storage and a logic circuit for processing of stored data. In typical embodiments the remote control is configured to control a video display system.